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January 12, 2004

Office of Initial Patent Examination
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
 Washington, D.C. 20231
 Fax No. (703) 746-9195 **VIA**

RE: U.S. Utility Patent Application Titled - Serial
 No. 10/696,754 HEATING PLATE ASSEMBLY
 FOR A COOKING APPLIANCE (Our File 1-15693)

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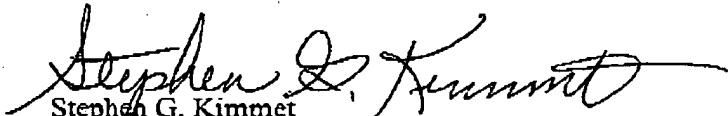
Dear Sir or Madam:

I am inquiring about the filing status of the above-identified utility patent application that was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on October 29, 2003. We did not receive the Official Filing Receipt and Foreign Filing License on this application.

Since we are approaching the third month, since the filing, with no Official Filing Receipt we would like to know the Official Status of the subject application. You can reply by way of fax to (419) 249-7151.

Best regards,

MARSHALL & MELHORN, LLC


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SGK **P. S. Originally filed by EXP.MAIL # EV151028133 US**